

REMARKS

Reconsideration and further examination of the subject patent application in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14, 16, 25 and 27-29 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14, 16, 25 and 27-29 stand rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-11, 25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 4,709,330 to Yokoi et al. in view of U.K. Pat. No. GB 2 299 668 to Appleby et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In response, independent claim 1 has been clarified by being further directed to “at least one module of the plurality of audio modules including ... at least one audio input transducer that directly detects human audible sound.” Independent claims 11 and 25 have been similarly directed. The sensing of human audible sounds such as the voices of people through the microphones 14 is discussed in paragraph [0033]. In addition, the ability of a human, such as a fire commander, to listen directly to human audible sounds, such as a fire, sensed or otherwise detected by a microphone is discussed throughout the specification (e.g., paragraph [0018], paragraphs [0030-4], etc.)

Independent claim 1 has also been clarified by being further directed to the context “which includes at least one of circuitry or software to automatically compare human audible sound directly detected by the audio input transducer of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire

and received at the control unit with at least one fire signature, to establish that a fire is present in the vicinity of at least one of the modules.” Independent claims 11 and 25 have been similarly directed. The comparison of audio detected by the audio input transducer of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire and received at the control unit with at least one stored fire signature, to establish that a fire is present is discussed at least in paragraph [0018] of the specification.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-11, 25 and 27 are now clearly differentiated over the combination of Yokoi et al. and Appleby et al. For example, Yokoi et al. fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of sounds emitted by a fire. Similarly, Appleby merely uses an ultrasonic transducer 5 for emitting ultrasonic waves and an ultrasonic transducer 6 for receiving “ultrasonic sound waves . . . which varies as a function of modifications . . . of the emitted sound waves by . . . the presence of a fire” (Appleby, page 2, lines 10-17). Since the Appleby ultrasonic waves are modified by the fire, there is no “audio input transducer that directly detects human audible sounds” or “circuitry or software to automatically compare human audible sound directly detected by the audio transducer of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire . . . with at least one fire signature” taught or suggested by the combination of Yokoi et al. and Appleby et al.

Since Yokoi et al. and Appleby et al. fail to provide any teaching of any analysis of “human audible sound . . . of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire”, the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Since the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation, the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 14, 16, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yokoi et al. in view of Appleby et al. and U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 6,295,346 to Markowitz et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

It may be noted in this regard, that claim 8 is dependent upon claim 1, claims 14 and 16 are dependent upon claim 11 and claims 28 and 29 are dependent upon claim 25. As such, claims 8, 14, 16, 28 and 29 are limited to human audible “sounds emitted by a fire.”

It may be noted next that Markowitz et al. is limited to speech recognition software. As such the combination of Yokoi et al., Appleby et al. and Markowitz et al. fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of any system that analyzes human audible “sounds emitted by a fire.”

Since Yokoi et al., Appleby et al. and Markowitz et al. all fail to provide any teaching of any analysis of “human audible sound ... of characteristic sounds emitted by a fire”, the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Since the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation, the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Closing Remarks

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the subject application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicits an early Notice of Allowance. Should the Primary Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Primary Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to any late

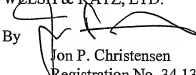
Appl. No. 10/716,157

fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 or the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this sheet(s) is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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